

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a locally managed instance of a printer on a workstation which communicates to the printer over a peer-to-peer network, comprising the steps of:

selecting an option to create a locally managed instance of the printer;

inputting an identifier of the printer;

in response to the input identifier, automatically obtaining printer configuration information and print driver information based at least in part on the input identifier;

automatically configuring the printer and installing a print driver based on the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information; and

creating the locally managed instance of the printer.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the identifier is a network address of the printer.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the network address is an IP address.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the identifier is a DNS name.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the identifier is a NetBios name.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printer is a virtual printer.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the printer configuration information and the print driver information are automatically obtained from a remote device on the network.

8. A method according to Claim 7, wherein the remote device is an FTP server.

9. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising automatically creating a port for communication with the printer.

10. Computer-executable process steps for creating a locally managed instance of a printer on a workstation which communicates to the printer over a peer-to-peer network, comprising the steps of:

selecting an option to create a locally managed instance of the printer;

inputting an identifier of the printer;

in response to the input identifier, automatically obtaining printer configuration information and print driver information based at least in part on the input identifier;

automatically configuring the printer and installing a print driver based on the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information; and

creating the locally managed instance of the printer.

11. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 10, wherein the identifier is a network address of the printer.

12. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 11, wherein the network address is an IP address.

13. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 10, wherein the identifier is a DNS name.

14. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 10, wherein the identifier is a NetBios name.

15. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 10, wherein the printer is a virtual printer.

16. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 10, wherein the printer configuration information and the print driver information are automatically obtained from a remote device on the network.

17. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 16, wherein the remote device is an FTP server.

18. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 10 further comprising automatically creating a port for communication with the printer.

19. A computer-readable medium on which are stored computer-executable process steps for creating a locally managed instance of a printer on a workstation which communicates to the printer over a peer-to-peer network, the computer-executable process steps comprising the steps of:

selecting an option to create a locally managed instance of the printer;

inputting an identifier of the printer;

in response to the input identifier, automatically obtaining printer configuration information and print driver information based at least in part on the input identifier;

automatically configuring the printer and installing a print driver based on the obtained printer configuration information and print driver information; and

creating the locally managed instance of the printer.

20. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, wherein the identifier is a network address of the printer.

21. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 20, wherein the network address is an IP address.

22. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, wherein the identifier is a DNS name.

23. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, wherein the identifier is a NetBios name.

24. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, wherein the printer is a virtual printer.

25. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19, wherein the printer configuration information and the print driver information are automatically obtained from a remote device on the network.

26. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 25, wherein the remote device is an FTP server.

27. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 19 further comprising automatically creating a port for communication with the printer.

28. An apparatus, comprising:

a processor for executing computer-executable process steps; and
a memory for storing the computer-executable process steps for
creating a locally managed instance of a printer on a workstation which
communicates to the printer over a peer-to-peer network, the computer-
executable process steps comprising the steps of (a) selecting an option to
create a locally managed instance of the printer, (b) inputting an identifier of
the printer, (c) in response to the input identifier, automatically obtaining
printer configuration information and print driver information based at least in
part on the input identifier, (d) automatically configuring the printer and
installing a print driver based on the obtained printer configuration
information and print driver information, and (e) creating the locally managed
instance of the printer.

29. An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the identifier is a
network address of the printer.

30. An apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein the network address
is an IP address.

31. An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the identifier is a
DNS name.

32. An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the identifier is a
NetBios name.

33. An apparatus according to Claim 28, wherein the printer is a
virtual printer.

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